Ireland Shakspeare
Fabrications.
119A
G. Hilder Libbis.
not in collection

Copy of the original Journal.
written by Samuel Ireland of
Hoddesdon of a tour in France 1750
He was uncle to Samuel Ireland of
Norfolk Street and great uncle of
Wm. Hy. Ireland the Shakspeare
Fabricator

By S. A. KENNER

NORTH SEA
MOUTHS OF THE MAAS
MOUTHS OF THE SCHELDT
MOUTH OF THE THAMES
STRAIT OF DOVER
HARWICH
THE HAGUE
Colchester
The Naze
Hertford
Chelmsford
Barnet
LONDON
Maldon
Foulness
Tilbury
Southend
Shoebury Ness
P. Victoria
Sheerness
Sheppey I.
Chatham
Greenwich
Woolwich
Gravesend
Margate
N. Foreland
Ramsgate
Reigate
Dorking
CANTERBURY
Deal
East Grinstead
Ashford
DOVER
Hythe
Folkestone
Dunkirk
Gravelines
Lewes
Rye
Dunge Ness
C. Gris Nez
Ambleteuse
Hastings
Winchelsea
Brighton
Shoreham
Newhaven
Eastbourne
Beachy Head
Boulogne
Guines
CALAIS
Bergues
Blankenberghe
OSTEND
Nieuport
Dixmude
Thourout
Bruges
Eccloo
Philippine
Lillo
Hulst
S. Nicholas
ANTWERP
Lokeren
Contich
GHENT
R. Scheldt
Termonde
Mechlin
Poperinghe
Hazebrouck
St. Omer
Quesnoy
Courtray
Oudenarde
Armentieres
Roubaix
LILLE
Tournay
Ath
Enghien
Soignies
Waterloo
Genappe
Nivelles
Etaples
Montreuil
Fruges
Bethune
Lens
Agincourt
Hesdin
St. Pol
DOUAI
Arras
Vitry
St. Amand
Condé
MONS
Valenciennes
Sambre R.
Thuin
Chatelet
Ligny
R. Somme
St. Valery
Tréport
Abbeville
Doullens
Albert
Cambrai
Quesney
Avesnes
Marienbourg
le Cateau
Couvin
DIEPPE
St. Valery
Fécamp
Offranville
Picquigny
Amiens
Péronne
Bohain
Hirson
Rocroy
Totes
Longueville
Aumale
Boyes
St. Quentin
Ham
R. Oise
Vervins
Ribemont
Marle
MEZIERES
Sedan
Mouzon
Rethel
Aisne R.
Attigny
Buzancy
Vouziers
Monthois
Harfleur
HAVRE
R. Seine
Honfleur
Clere
Neufchatel
Poix
Breteuil
Songeons
St. Just
Roy
Montdidier
Noyon
LAON
Soissons
ROUEN
Gd Couronne
Gisors
Les Andeleys
Elbeuf
Louviers
R. Magnyo
Seine
Beauvais
Clermont
R. Oise
Compiègne
Villers Cotterets
Chantilly
Senlis
Meru
Bernay
Evreux
Vimoutier
Pontoise
Meulan
Mantes
St. Denys
l'Isle Adam
Nanteuil
St. Gonesse
Dammartin
Chatillon sur Marne
REIMS
Epernay
Ste Menehould
CHALONS
Damville
St. Germain
PARIS
Château Thierry
Meaux
Montmirail
R. Marne
Vertus
Esternay
Sezanne
Vitry le Francois
Fere Champenoise
Verneuil
Dreux
VERSAILLES
R. Eure
Sceaux
Boissy
La Ferte Gaucher
Tourman
Rambouillet
Mortagne
Maintenon
Corbeil
MELUN
Provins
Arcis-sur-Aube
Belleme
Courville
Etampes
CHARTRES
Le Chatelet
Nogent
R. Seine
Ramerupt
Joinville
La Ferte Bernard
Voyes
Fontainebleau
Montereau
Piney
Janville
Malesherbes
Nemours
Sens
Villeneuve
TROYES
Bonneval
Châteaudun
Pithiviers
Villeneuve le Roi
LE MANS
Beaune
Cloyes
Montargis
Chateau Renard
Joigny
St. Florentin
ORLEANS
Savigny
Mohtoire
Beaugency
Sully
Châtillon





LYONS. 1834

Copy of a Journal of a Journey to Paris etc.

written ~~by one of the Irelands in all probability~~ by Samuel Ireland's ~~father~~ Uncle, Samuel Ireland of Hoddesden

The size of the volume is 5 3/4 inches by 3 3/4 inches - It has 74 pages only 40 of which are written upon - it is in a parchment cover with flap. and has the name 'Ireland' written in ink on the cover. It was purchased of Wm. Hy. Ireland by Wm. Upcott of the London Institution on June 12th 1823. together with a volume of Samuel Ireland's Journal.

The writer purchased them at Sothebys on the 13th Nov. 1903 at the Sale of J. T. Beer's Library. G. Hilder Gibbs.

Page

1 1750 Journey to Paris

June 10 - To Dunstable

11 Arrived at London by noon. Set out about 4 in afternoon and arrived at Dover by 7 next morning.

Post Chaise hired to Paris for 3 Louis

12th Embarqued about 4 Afternoon for Boulogne, where we arrived about 11 at night.

13. Dined at Montreuil - Lay at Abbeside - A l'Eloile d'or.

14 To Frisonville 4 L. — Ville D'Eu 3 L. Chateau de D. de Tombes, pleasant Situation, Park, Woods, River &c. to ye left we saw a pretty T. on ye cliff by ye Sea.

Now in Normandy - Country open, soil light, & covered with corn of all sorts,

3 Flax - Villages enclosed and lined with Rows of Trees, — chiefly Elms.

To Creuil - Village 2 L. × a valley - woods, & a clear stream.

To Dreppe 6 L. The View of ye T. & Harbour from a neighbouring Hill extremely agreable T. lyes low - Streets long, & strait, & well-built, particularly ye Quay; where is ye Cours: Ivory work ye staple commodity here, which is wrought in great Perfection. Dined at S. St Jean. Mackrel, Fowl, Burgundy & Cyder.

The King's Route to Rouen now making at a vast Expence - An Ascent near 1/2 league from ye T. by a Line; ye Hill in some

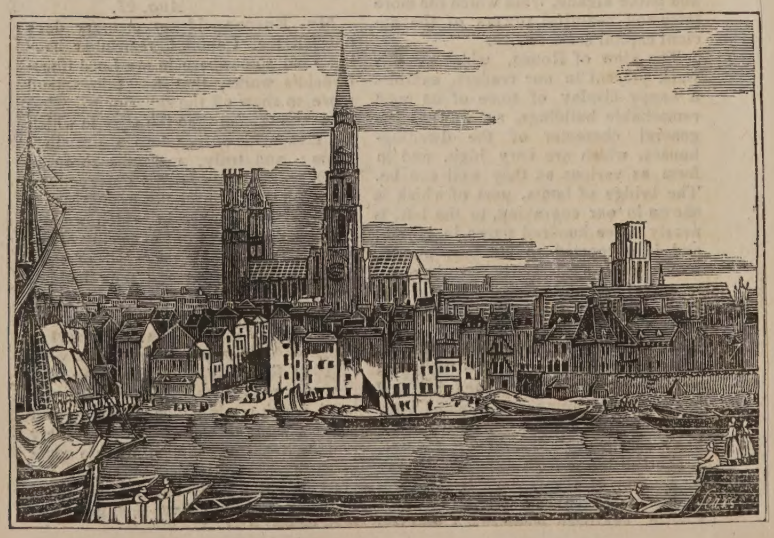
5 Places cut thro' some yards deep, in others ye Valleys filled up; a Pavie to run thro' ye



North West View of the
Cathedral Church of ROUEN, in Normandy. See p. 633.

Published as the Act directs, March 1 1814, by J. Nichols, Red Lyon Court Fleet Street London.

Rouen. 1823.



5 middle of ye Road. The Country open, full of Corn, Woods & Villages.
The natural Roads exceedingly bad.
Lay at Tosles 6 L. from Dieppe – There Mr. Fouquet has a pretty Country-House.
This Farm about 2000 p Ann: gave us a Specimen of ye manner of disposing ye Conveniences requisite for a Farm in this part of ye World.
Within a large square Orchard is situated ye Dwelling-House; with ye Buildings, viz: Barn, Granary, Stables, Cart Hoods,
7 Wood-House, & all seperate & placed within ye same area which is fenced by a deep Ditch and raised Bank containing several Rows of Elm Trees. Round ye whole run 2 or 3 walks of Beach Trees, Sometimes ending in a little Grove.
Several[X] Gentlemen's Seats each having one or more Farms in this Disposition, which with long visto's of Apple Trees[※] running in several Directions thro' ye open Cornfields have a most agreable Effect, & give ye whole Country ye Air of one continued garden, or Orchard. Besides this, one meets with frequent Plantations of Oaks.
The Approach to Rouen by a Descent extremely fine; on ye left a regular Row of little Hills with Seats and Villages – Below Rouen affords a large & beautiful Appearance: beyond it ye Sein 8 L. skirted by a long Series of gentle Hills each sloping down in ye Form of a Dove-Tail, or Triangle
14th Rouen. 6 L. from Fôles; Hotel Valet Rue de Carmes. The city little inferior to any I had seen in France, except Paris and Lyons, The Cours particularly fine, consisting of one grand Allie & 2 small ones; near one mile in Length: The Prospect from it, in Line, Rouen, Chain of Hills bound ye Route to Paris &c.
16th To Vaudreuil 5 L. Chateau of Mr. Roste(?) Presidt. du Parlement de Paris, consisting of 2 Cosps (?) with a large Space between, thro' which we entered into A fine Parterre of Flowers, with Bosquets of Work on each side –

[X] In our next Days Journey we saw several other
[※] growing naturally with Heads regularly round, and running of

Breakfasted, & Spent ye remainder of ye Day here. The Scholars of ye Jes. Coll. at Noss.
The fine Gothic W. Front of ye Cathedral – Quay long & spacious on ye 11
Soin Bridge of Boats –
Old Palace or Castle built of Henry 4 or 5th of England at W. End. Several public Buildings in a Line on ye other side of ye water.


FRANCE
divided into
CIRCLES
and
DEPARTMENTS.
Explanation.
Boundaries of the Metropolitan Circles
Do. of the Departments
Do. of the Districts
Lines drawn a Mile & a Half
Do. shewing a Tract of Land
The Principal Places in each Department in Italics
Names of the Metropolitan Circles.
1 the Coasts of the Channel
2 the North East
3 the East
4 the South East
5 the Coasts of the Mediterranean
6 the South
7 the South West
8 the North West
9 the Centre
SPAIN
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
SWITZERLAND
ITALY
BAY OF BISCAY
BRITISH CHANNEL
GALWAY BAY
NORTH COAST
ISLE de Rhé
ISLE d'Oleron
ISLE de Ré
ISLE d'Aix
ISLE de Bas
ISLE de Noirmoutier
ISLE de Dieu
ISLE de Belle
ISLE de Groix
ISLE de Ouessant
ISLE de Sein
ISLE de Batz
ISLE de Callot
ISLE de Glenans
ISLE de Tristan
ISLE de Cezembre
ISLE de Jersey
ISLE de Guernsey
ISLE de Sark
ISLE de Man
ISLE de Wight
ISLE de Portland
Lambay I.
Howth Head
Dalkey I.
Holyhead
Skerries
Strangford L.
Carlingford L.
Lough Neagh
Lough Erne
Lough Foyle
Lough Swilly
Lough Derg
Lough Ree
Lough Corrib
Lough Mask
Lough Allen
Lough Gara
Lough Key
Lough Sheelin
Lough Ennell
Lough Owel
Lough Derravaragh
Lough Gowna
Lough Sheelan
Lough Ramor
Lough Kilglass
Lough Gill
Lough Arrow
Lough Conn
Lough Melvin
Lough Macnean
Lough Scur
Lough Allen
Lough Rinn
Lough Boderg
Lough Meelagh
Lough Forbes
Lough Kinale
Lough Gara
Lough Key
Lough Sheelin
Lough Ennell
Lough Owel
Lough Derravaragh
Lough Gowna
Lough Sheelan
Lough Ramor
Lough Kilglass
Lough Gill
Lough Arrow
Lough Conn
Lough Melvin
Lough Macnean
Lough Scur
Lough Allen
Lough Rinn
Lough Boderg
Lough Meelagh
Lough Forbes
Lough Kinale

The Route which we took 11 from Rouen to Paris gave us frequent & very agreable Views of ye Seine, Sometimes at one side & as if River turns & winds in wanton meanders along this Country finest in France, we often 13 crossed it for as ye River Serpentines Thro' ye whole Length of Way in a very remarkable manner, as if unwilling to quit so delicious a Country, we had occasion to cross it in several places.

Country Seat of archbishop of Rouen & scarcely inferior to any Palace in France. Near this Place a Treaty was signed between King John & Louis King of France whereby it was ye Louis should marry Blanche heiress to King John & thereupon Should keep a Part of what he had got belonging to D^hea of Normandy & in case John died without Issue have all ye rest. The situation extremely bold & ye style tho' gothic very magnificent w Scarce inferior to any Palace in France had it an entrance been proportionally grand - It is a Country Seat belonging to Archbp. of Rouen having been built by G d Amboise Archbp of since greatly embellished by Cardinal de Bourbon & Nicholas Colbert Abp of Rouen.

Beyond wilderness Work - Walks, Vista for nearly 2 miles terminating in an High Mountain. Crossing River Ore which dividing itself incloses ye whole Spot. From an Etoile of several Points one sees ye Boundaries all around, which are Hills of several Sizes.

On ye Brow of ye Highest ye large Convent de deux Amans.

To Gaillon 4 L. A Castle belonging to Archbishop of Rouen built G'd Amboise Archbp of Rouen & greatly embellished by ye Cardinal de Bourbon [illegible] and Nicholas Colbert Archbp. of Rouen in a gothic style but very magnificent. The situation extremely bold but ye Entrance very mean.

It contains 2 Courts: in middle of ye 1st a large Fountain - The building is very richly ornamented, Busts of Roman Emperors, & Roman Triumph in Relievo. The upper Part of ye minor Court a fine Orangery in form of an Ampitheatre; ye Lower Side an Arcade or Corridor, which thro' several Arches gives beautiful Views of ye Country below.

containing Walks, Grass Plots, with Trees, & a Bousquet of Trees (Limes) nearest ye Wall that supports ye Terras next above—

Adjoining to ye Parterre a Park of 800 Ac^s. To ye Front of Castle a prodigious Extentsive & fine View over ye Country—on ye Right gentle Hills covered with Vines, & little Tufts of woods On ye left ye Seine serpentining in ye Plain appears as a grand Canal formed by Nature on Purpose for ye Owner of ye Castle. 17
Above, gentle Hills covered with Woods, vineyards &c.
Going by ye Convent back to ye T. an Hermit who had made up a Room, Oratory, &c in a Rock in ye Neighbourhood, & usually went to ye Convent for his Victuals.
Charlotte extremely shocked at that part of ye Carthusians Discipline which for ever excludes ye Sight of Women.
After Vernon we enter ye 19 Isle of France.

15 The Gardens consist of 2 or 3 large Terrass very broad & rising one above another, planted with Trees & supported by high Walls: These answer ye several Stories of ye Castle So that ye enter from ye several Appartments into a corresponding Terras.
Two Grand Appartments one above ye other, they are very good with each a gallery at ye end.
These Appartments & a Gallery are very good, but unfurnished.
Near ye T. a Convent of Carthusians founded ye above mentioned Cardinal de Bourbon, Count de Soissons, who lyes Buried in one of ye Chapels belonging to ye Church, with his Wife, Son & Daughter under a most magnificent Tomb of black & white Marble. Their Effigies on ye Top & Sides of ye Tomb: & ye Figures of Justice, Temperance, Fortitude, & Prudence at ye 4 corners. The Cloisters enclosing ye Cemetere very extensive—Cells on each Side
21^st _____, & 19 Freres
To Vernon 3 L. near it ye Seat of Mar D. de Bellisle. As you advance to ye House, which is but indifferent, you have on Right Hand a magnificent Building for Stables, Servants Offices &c of white stone 18 or 20 windows in Front — In Centre a large Arch opening into ye Basse-Cour, in ye Middle of which is a Watering Place & Fountain; Another Fountain appears above this at a little Distance in ye Compries of ye Garden.
Garden front of ye House opens upon a large Parterre of Flowers bounded on Right with a large & long covered Allie: of Trees rising on a Terras above ye Parterre—Gardens large, partly on plain Ground, partly on ye Side of an high Hill, consisting Chiefly of Walks & Allées cut in Woods. From ye several openings delightful Views of ye Country, Seine, Hills, Villages, & Bourg of Vernon. The Disposition of ye whole in a Taste superior to what one generally meets with in France:



Veuë du Château de Versailles du côté de Paris.

21 To Mante 3 L. stay there

Sunday

17th To Meulon 3 L. near it L'Isle Belle, a beautiful Island in ye Seine, about 1 mile long, where are ye House (vid: Descript. Nouv Voyage de F. 2 pp 532) & Gardens of Mons.r Begnion, Nephew of ye late Abbé Begnion. From Garden Front a Walk on Left leads to ye Point of ye Island, a pleasant Pavilion (Belvedere) opening upon ye River, Town, Country —

Before House Parterre of Flowers - terminated by ye grand Allee along ye South Branch of ye Seine ye length of ye Garden — A Grove, Meadow planted with Abiélse, & Menagerie on Right, & a Farm or Field in this Form  in wheat bounded with an Hedge & a Walk, which divides ye Garden in two parts, on ye Left.

Further a three fold Walk crosses ye Garden — Then on Left another Ground of Wheat, on Right a Grove of Abiele - Then Wilderness, & oval Grass-Plote inclosed with Dutch Elm - An Etoile crossed by a covered Walk extending from one corner of ye Garden to ye other, which we judged to be 3 mile long: Another Partition of Grass Grounds with Abiele Trees, bounded by Walks.

Near ye South Branch of ye Seine a Summer House — before it an Etoile of 5 Points - After reaching ye Extremity, we returned by ye North Branch of ye Seine, which gave us a Prospect of that River; above ye raised High Road from Rouen to Paris — Higher gently rising Hills with Villages, Seats. Vineyards &c. further before us Meulon on ye Side of an Hill — The Infirmary near ye Church a new Building of Stone.

From Meulon to Treil 2 L.

To Poissi 1 L. on a Pave in a Line — View of Tower de St Germain on a rising Hill - which we afterwards passed in going to ye T. of that name. After dining at La Baniere de France, we proceeded to Paris The environs of Paris, which we see on

Treaty between Charles 6 & Henry 5 near Meulon vid Rapin.

The Country between Mante & Meulon inclosed by a Bend of Seine on Right, ye most delicious Spot imaginable, & which exceeds description. You Travel on a fine Pavé raised on purpose as it were to give you a fine View of ye Country on ye Right below you - viz 1st 23 A plain covered with Vines, Cherry-Trees, Gardening Ground &c. At a Distance Hills planted with ye Same, & adorned with Villages, Bourgs & Gentlemen's Seats - The Ascent gentle & regular as if disposed by Art.

On ye left, The Same kind of Country rising from ye Road.

As ye larger Part of this 25 Inclosure runs up towards ye Right, we passed ye Parterre above mentioned.

Thro' ye Skirts of which passed to ~~ye T of Same~~ Name, ye Mass Bodily of ye Tower extending itself North in 27 a deep Bend with ye Seine making ye branch & St Germain.


PARIS

I must not forget an Instance of ye good Memory & ye Politeness of ye French = My Landlady after we came to a Conference upon ye Important Article of Diner gave me to understand that upon ye she remembered me perfectly well, tho' ten years had passed since I was at her House, every part of which we each remark? during our stay there events of ye P[r] Family, Nay, that upon hearing my Voice calling out of ye Rooms in which we lay she pronounced w[t] I was Distinctly & truly recollected.

Upon my expressing a just Admiration at her incredible wonderful Memory, She answered with a genteel Courtsy, She never forgot those whom she loved.

MS. of Ant. Lucretius by Amanuensis

Telemaque Orig. MSS by ye Author.

accordingly it was designed to have to Miss Bacon

A Place among ye other noble Productions of ye Academy & ye Palace at Versailles 33

27 This Side, are inexpressibly beautiful: (Cour de la Reine) we lodged at L'Hotel de la Pare, Rue Columbier, Fauxbourg St. Germain. Our Appartments consisted of 4 Rooms at 2 Louis per week. We bargained with a Traiteur for our Diner at 3[l] a Piece(?), for we had a Soup, a Bouillé, an Entrè, Quelque Chose rotier & a Desert. Besides this we paid 35[s] for a Bottle of Burgundy, Diner & Supper.

29. Our Breakfast Coffee & Dishes 16[s]. Bread 1[s] Butter 5[f]

Supper - Bread & Butter, or 2 Biscuits. 8[s] with Fruit.

Our Servant at 30[s] a Day

Coach in Paris 12[l] a Day.

in ye Country 18[l] (2 Horses).

31 Paris June 17th Arrival

June 18th O.S. Saw Hotel Royal des Invalides

19th Saw Pictures in Notre Dame, Palais Luxembourg, &c.

20 Saw Palais Royal

21st Saw Bibliotheque du Roy; recommended by Mr. Folkes to Mr. L'Abbè Sallier Librarian, who (besides ye Library) showed us a fine Statue by Bouchardon - It was a Cupid Binding a Bow made of Hercules' Club, part of which appeared at ye Bottom; as also ye other Attributes of that Hero. See Note ※

It was an excellent work, designed for ye King's Pallace at Versailles - He likewise got us a Sight of ye Salles, where ye Academies of Inscriptions & 2d Science, Belles Lettres held their Assemblies, being fine large Rooms in ye old Louvre. In ye former were 2 large Paintings by Coypel ye one representing ye Founding of ye Academy by Louis 14[e], a Print of which is ye Frontespiece of ye Mem. de L'Acad. des Inscrip: ye other was adorned with Pictures of Men of ye highest Note for their Learning & Genius, who had belonged to the Academy.

We afterwards saw 2 or 3 Rooms belonging to ye Academies of Sculpture & Painting, full of ye Works of such french

※ Sept 1868

MEDAL OF CROMWELL: THE DASSIER MEDALS (4th S. ii. 80, 163.)—I have amongst others a bronze one in a brass frame, a very cleverly drawn characteristic head of Martinus Folkes Arm[r], and on the reverse "Societatis Regalis Londini Sodalis, M.DCC.XL." Who was this Martin Folkes, and what society is that?* The medal is not one

[* Martin Folkes, born in 1690, died 1754, was president of the Royal Society, and also the Society of Antiquaries. He is noticed in most biographical dictionaries."—ED.]



A View of the Royal Palace of FONTAINBLEAU.

Page

33 Maslers, as were allowed to excell in those Arts.

Evening at ye Comedy of Genie ou L'Esprit de Contradiction.

35 The Same Morning we went to ye Abbeye of St Denys (See p 75)
22nd The Gobelines - The Physic Garden - Chartreuse - Opera.
23rd The Fabrique of Looking-Glass - Churches of St Gervais, Grand-Jogniste - Coelesh'ps - Val de Grace - St Roique - Carmelites, Hôtel de Soubize -

Sunday.

June 24th
To St Germaine, after having seen ye Gardens of Marli.
25th To Versailles - Saw Toranon Castle & Gardens - The latter large & extremely rural.
26th Saw Castle, Gardens, Menagerie of Versailles - Returned to Paris
27th Saw Meudon, a Place justly celebrated for ye Grandeur & Beauty of its Situation

View of Meudon in Corner of grand Terras towards St Cloud. On Left the Convent & Garden Grove of ye Capuchins. On an Hill beyond ye Wood about 1 L. Distance appears ye New Chateau built by ye present Ds. of Chartres. To Right the Wood of ye Pare & Gardens of St Cloud. Lower ye Chateau & Town-Nearer yet below ye New House & Gardens making by ye King for Mdm Pompadour, below ye Seine forming 39 several Bends - Above Mt Calvary - within ye Bend of ye Seine in Corn, Vineyards Cherry, Apple Fruit Trees &c are several Villages, Chateau Madut, Bois de Bologne &c. Above that Part of ye View a long Range of Hills - More to Right St Denys, Mt Martyre, all Paris, Bois & Chateau

37.

St. Cloud
Molto's under ye Arms of D. Orleans on ye 2 Corners of one of ye Falls Alternately,
Diuck Spt Alters Gentis
&
Under a Bomb bursting
After post Fulmina Terror.
(We saw ye Ds. of Chartres, who was expected to be brought to Bed every Hour, going to walk in ye Garden - And her Son ye D. de Montpensier about 2 or 3 years old.)
We walked up Thro ye Pare to a new House lately built by ye Ds. de Chartres, called Chateau De Broussen. The Situation more romantic, on an exceeding high Hill. The Approach steep on each Side of an Amphitheatre scoped out of ye Hill almost in Form of an Head. It consisted of several little Appartments with a Dome in ye middle - Offices of all Sorts under ground.

39

29 Went to Fountainbleau. The Route by Choisi Le Roy, A new favourite Seat of ye King. The Appartments neatly furnished in ye Stile of a Maisin de Compagnie.
Fountainbleau has nothing to recommend it to a Stranger, but ye oddness of its Situation



PALACE OF FONTAINEBLEAU.



Arrival of the diligence in Old Paris



The Englishman in Paris (1767)

De Vonerozs(?) and several fine roads to Paris.

41 aming Rocks & Woods, & ye Venerable Remains of the Ornaments, which ye ancient Kings of France from Age to Age have bestowed upon it according to ye Taste which prevailed in their respective Times.

We returned to Meulan to diversify ye Route; but I would have no Stranger follow our Example for ye Country does not at all ; & for Want of Post Horses we had like to have been obliged to lye in ye Forest of Linas



THE PALACE OF VERSAILLES AS IT WAS IN THE TIME OF LOUIS XIV.
From the painting by J. B. Martin in the Museum of Versailles



A SCENE AT VERSAILLES IN THE TIME OF LOUIS XIV.
From the painting by J. B. Martin in the Museum of Versailles





The Bibliothèque Nationale, from the Rue Vivienne.

THE BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE OF PARIS.

THE vast buildings which form the Bibliothèque Nationale—home of peace and meditation, if ever there were one—are situated, by a strange anomaly, in the very centre of Paris, in the liveliest and noisiest quarter of the capital. Whereas all the other libraries, all the great seats of learning, harbour their devotees on the left bank of the Seine—the quieter bank and the one more favourable to study—the Bibliothèque Nationale alone raises its thick walls in the midst of that human ant-hill which is formed by the quarter of the Palais Royal.

It is true that several times during this century it has been proposed to remove our great national institute. Napoleon I. himself had this idea, which he did not, however, carry out. It is not so easy to displace immense collections like those which occupy the ancient hotel of Cardinal Mazarin.

It was in 1721 that the collections of the Royal Library—formerly hidden in a part of Colbert's hotel, where the great minister had given them shelter—took up their abode in the vast premises left untenanted by the bankruptcy of Law and in a portion of the hotel of the Comte de Nevers, an annexe of the ancient Palais Mazarin. At that time they were unpretentious, and contented themselves with little.

They increased with such marvellous rapidity, however, during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, that in 1855, notwithstanding the encroachments made on neighbouring property, notwithstanding the prodigies of ingenuity and patience



The Courtyard.

displayed by the Conservateurs, they overflowed in every direction. A complete transformation was deemed necessary. Nearly all the old buildings were pulled down, and in their place arose superb edifices, with all the arrangements intelligently carried out, and with vast and airy rooms, constructed under the direction of the architects Labrouste, father and son, and at the present day under that of M. Pascal. It took thirty years to complete this work, voted for by the Commission of 1855.

Even then all was not yet perfect. Some old houses, attached to that portion of the Bibliothèque Nationale on the side of the Rue Vivienne, placed its treasures in permanent danger. Moreover, with the far-reaching spirit of our age, the day was already foreseen when the new buildings would be insufficient. It was therefore decided to buy and demolish the houses adjoining the Bibliothèque Nationale, and to construct new and magnificent buildings on their sites.

The first part of the programme was carried out: the old buildings exist no more. But the second part is yet in the section of projects to come; and one of the most beautiful streets of Paris, the Rue Vivienne, is still disfigured by black and gaping building sites, most unattractive to the eye of the visitor.

The architect himself, M. Pascal, has estimated the cost of the new buildings at seven millions of francs, but the Chambers have not assented to the Bill. This is the more regrettable, as the new buildings would offer to students an immense hall, where they could work in the evening by electric light—an oft-expressed wish of the Parisian press and students.



The Inner Facade.

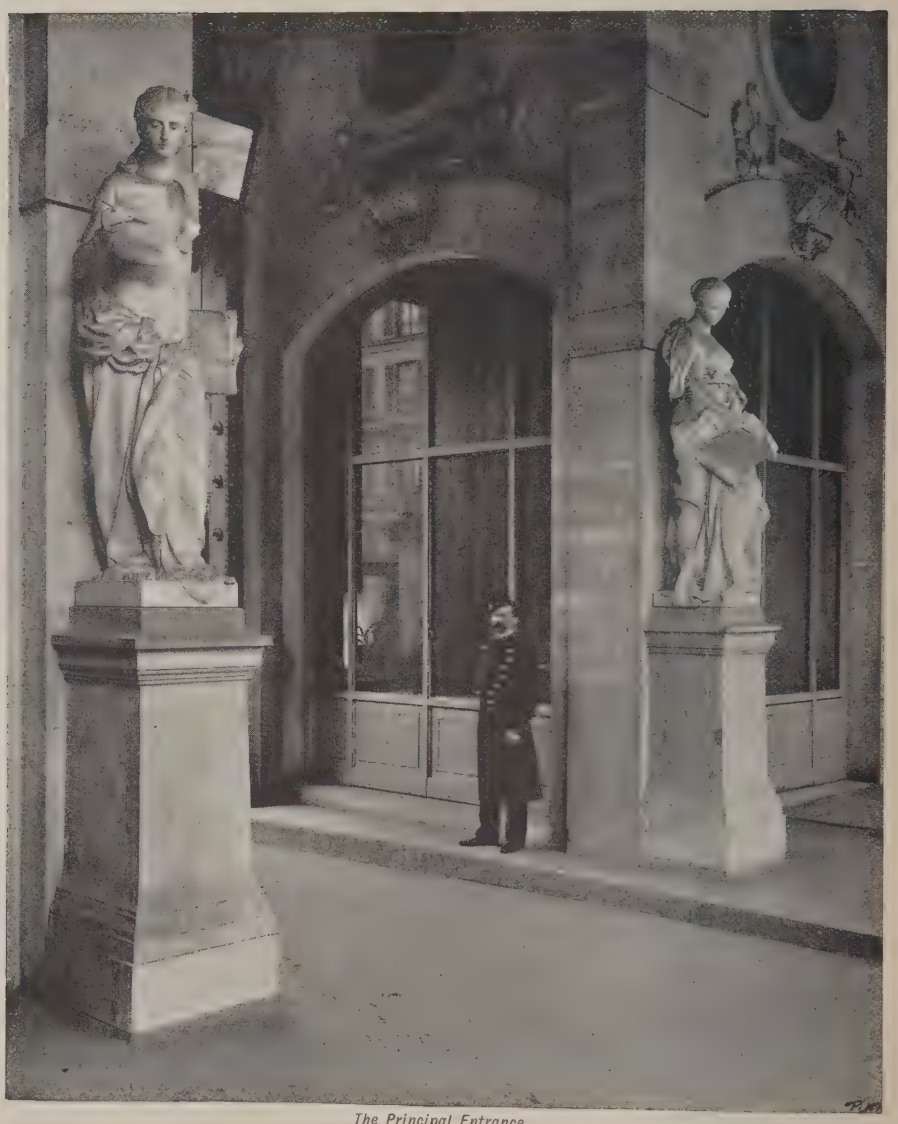
The Bibliothèque Nationale is divided into four great sections or departments: the *Département des Imprimés*, to which is attached the geographical section; the *Département des Manuscrits*; the *Département des Estampes*, and that of *Monnaies et Médailles*.

Our great institute has at its head as General Administrator (*Administrateur Général*) a man of letters, no less celebrated and esteemed in France than abroad —M. Léopold Delisle. He is seconded in his difficult task by an able and zealous General Secretary (*Secrétaire Général*)—M. Montreuil. Each department is presided over by a Keeper-in-Chief (*Conservateur-en-Chef*). After him are ranged the assistant keepers (*conservateurs adjoints*), librarians, sub-librarians, probationers, and, lastly, the attendants—these latter being occupied with purely mechanical work.

The *Département des Imprimés* is by far the most important, not only owing to the actuality which it puts into its work, but over and above all to the large portion of the public which is interested in its literary treasures and makes use of them. It is therefore natural that it should occupy a large place in this paper.

When one compares the present *Département des Imprimés* with the thousand volumes which the inventory of 1610 sets forth, one is astounded at the distance traversed since that time. What a tremendous product of human genius during the last three centuries!

Already on the accession of Louis XIV. an advance was made, and the Bibliothèque du Roi numbered five thousand volumes. The Copyright Act, obtained



The Principal Entrance.

some years previously as compensation for the privileges accorded to printers, promoted a quick development of the Royal Library from that time forward.

The inventory of Nicolas Clément in 1688 gives substantial proof of an obvious augmentation, as the works inventoried number 143,000. On the eve of the Revolution, 300,000 volumes filled the shelves of the ancient Palais Mazarin. The revolutionary era saw an influx to the Bibliothèque Nationale of the works seized from the abbeys and the châteaux of the *emigrés*. And these were so numerous that all classification became impossible! The officials contented themselves with arranging the new-comers, according to the names of the authors, in alphabetical order in their respective classes.

This became the starting-point of a new system of classification, respected up to 1876—that is to say, until the administration of M. Léopold Delisle. It is known under the name of "unclassified" (*non porté*). The classification adopted before the Revolution is designated by the name of "old stock" (*ancien fonds*) or "old classification" (*ancien porté*). Since 1876 we have a new class called "new stock" (*nouveau fonds*) or "new classification" (*nouveau porté*). Each work on entering the *Département des Imprimés* is now numbered and placed in the class to which it belongs; it is then inserted in one of the *bulletins*, French or foreign, which appear monthly. Lastly, slips under authors' names and order of subject are put at the disposal of readers. The public can therefore easily keep itself informed of the new works which are acquired by the Bibliothèque Nationale through the Copyright Act or through purchase, and which figure on an average at 60,000 volumes or thereabouts.

At the present moment 2,600,000 volumes—3,000,000 if one counts the duplicates and collections of pieces—occupy the immense rooms of the Bibliothèque Nationale. They would form, if they were placed side by side, forty kilometers of length.

In order to facilitate research, the idea has long existed of classifying the works according to the matters treated of. In spite of the defects of certain of these classifications, they have been preserved, in order to avoid long and costly revisions. They follow, with the corresponding letters of the alphabet: A, Holy Writ; B, Liturgy and Councils; C, Fathers of the Church; D, Catholic Theology; D^2, Non-Catholic Theology; E, Canon Law; E^2, The Law of Nature and of Nations; F, Civil Law; G, General History and Geography; H, Ecclesiastical History; J, Ancient History—Greeks, Byzantines, Turks, Romans; K, History of Italy; L, History of France; M, History of Germany, of the Netherlands, and of the Northern and Eastern Countries of Europe; N, History of Great Britain; O, History of Spain and Portugal; O^2, History of Asia; O^3, History of Africa; P, History of America; P^2, History of Oceania; Q, Bibliography; R, Philosophical, Political, Economical, Moral and Physical Sciences; S, Natural Sciences; T, Medical Sciences; V, Mathematical Sciences and Arts; Vm, Music; X, Philology and Rhetoric; Y, Poetry and the Drama; Y^2, Novels; Z, Polygraphy. These divisions have not proved adequate, and it has been deemed useful to make subdivisions in certain over-extensive divisions. The section *Poetry and the Drama* has been notably divided into several subsections as follows: Y, Generalities; Ya, Oriental Poetry; Yb, Greek Poetry; Yc, Latin Poetry; Yd, Italian Poetry; Ye, French Poetry; Yf, French Drama (not detached pieces); Yg, Spanish and Portuguese Poetry; Yh, German Poetry; Yi, Poetry of the Netherlands; Yk, English Poetry; Yl, Scandinavian Poetry; Ym, Sclavonic Poetry; Yn, Celtic Poetry; Yo, Miscellaneous Works (not included in the preceding subdivisions); Yth, Detached Plays.

The following sections have, like that of Poetry, a certain number of subsections:—

History of France	15	subsections.
„ Great Britain	24	
„ Spain and Portugal	27	„
„ Asia	20	„
„ Africa	23	„
„ America	26	„
„ Oceania	5	„
Medical Sciences	8	„
Music	11	„



Statue of Howden.

In each of these divisions those volumes have been set aside which, by reason of their rarity, or their intrinsic value, or precious manuscript notes, may not be used without special precautions. These constitute the *réserve*, and are only issued at a special table of the reading-room (*salle de travail*). In this manner, then, are the innumerable works of the Bibliothèque Nationale classified and numbered. Every employé can find the book required in a few minutes. This is something in itself, but it is not all. In order to make these riches known to the public, a complete catalogue must be put before them for consultation. This has long been contemplated. Already in 1645 the brothers Dupuy were occupied with it, although only 1329 volumes existed at that time. A little later Nicolas Clément took up the idea of the brothers Dupuy and compiled two catalogues, which are still referred to, and have been used up to the point of departure for the latest classifications. The Legislative Assembly wished to try and bring a little order into the ever-increasing flood of books, and ordered, by a decree of January 2nd, 1792, a general inventory of all the works in the Bibliothèque; but, overwhelmed by the avalanches of volumes descending upon them from all parts of France, the librarians must have abandoned all work of this kind.

The first half of this century saw a little order introduced into the chaos of books amassed since the Revolution; but until the appointment of M. Taschereau as General Administrator, in 1852, no serious catalogue work was attempted. The new Administrator commenced by making slips for every work received at the



Vestibule of the Reading Room.

Imprimés. At the same time he set to work on the enormous arrears, and compiled the large catalogues of the History of France and of Medical Sciences. Still, a fixed plan was lacking for the successful achievement of so important a work as a general catalogue of the *Imprimés.* The honour of having understood this falls to M. Léopold Delisle. A Commission, of which he was the President, instituted in October 1875—that is to say, shortly after his appointment as General Administrator—evolved a code of measures and rules, destined to lay the foundations of the immense work, to which a considerable impetus was to be given—the general inventory of the riches of the Bibliothèque, that necessary prelude to the future catalogue.

This enormous task, which at that time seemed impossible, is completed to-day; and the three millions of volumes of the Bibliothèque Nationale are at the present moment represented by slips, classified according to subject and in alphabetical order, and which are to assist in the compilation of the General Catalogue. For there is no intention of stopping when all is fairly started. A considerable piece of work has been accomplished at the Bibliothèque Nationale, but the right is not yet theirs to inscribe the words of the Latin poet: "*Exegi Monumentum.*"

The General Administrator did not wish, however, to undertake this new task without having the opinions of competent men. A Commission, instituted for this purpose some months ago, has studied all the details of the new work, and has decided upon its immediate execution on the following lines.

The General Catalogue will comprise all the printed works of the Bibliothèque Nationale: for it is not solely in the department of that name that books exist;



The Reading Room.

they are also to be found in other departments, and especially in that of Manuscripts. The collectors whose treasures have enriched that department have, for the most part, gathered amongst the manuscripts a quantity of printed matter, often of extreme rarity. The "registers" (*registres*) given to or acquired by the Bibliothèque Nationale have been religiously preserved, as they are full of neglected documents of real value. The "Catechism of Calvin," which no library possessed, and which was published at Geneva on the text discovered in Paris, was found, a few years ago, in one of these collections, in the midst of manuscripts relating to religious

affairs of the sixteenth century. There are, therefore, more than forty thousand printed works in the registers of the *Département des Manuscrits* which are lost to students. Consequently the decision taken by the Commission cannot be too highly praised.

The inventory, already commenced, proves in fact the usefulness of this work. The Clairambault collection, of which the inventory is now complete, does not comprise less than nine thousand slips relative to pieces of the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. It is intended also to include in the General Catalogue the books of the Fontainebleau Library, which has been associated with the Bibliothèque Nationale since January 16th, 1888, and is particularly rich in pamphlets of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

The catalogue will comprise three great classes:

1. The class of autonym works.
2. The class of anonymous works, or those considered as such.
3. The class of special works.

The first class will give, under authors' names, in alphabetical order, the titles of all works of which the author is known, with the usual description of edition, date, and size. There will also be appended to the name of each writer a complete list of those of his works represented at the Bibliothèque Nationale, with the different editions and number of copies of each work.

The second class is reserved for anonymous works, or those considered as such: for example, those signed by more than five authors, or simply designated by initials.

The third class will be formed of groups of special works. This principle, by the way, has already been applied to the Factums or Law Reports prior to 1789. The *Département des Imprimés* contains about fifty-seven thousand of these, and a catalogue of them, which is being compiled by M. Corda, will be of great interest for family histories. Three volumes have already appeared of the six destined to form the complete catalogue; the Factums, discovered in the inventory of the manuscripts, are in themselves numerous enough to form at least one supplementary volume. The theses of medicine and law, pieces of music, oriental works whose titles are untranslated, etc., will also be included in this third class.

It is estimated that the General Catalogue will consist of about eighty volumes quarto, of eight hundred pages each, in two columns. The work is already commenced, and at the present moment the materials are being collected for the compilation of a portion of the letter A (A—AC). Whilst awaiting the still distant achievement of this considerable work, which will form a catalogue unsurpassed as a triumph of human thought, the compilers have at their disposal a certain number of incomplete catalogues, from which they are able to gather much useful information, and of which the following are the principal, not including those published in preceding centuries or relative to special collections:—

Catalogue of the History of France	14 volumes with supplements.
Alphabetical Inventory of General History	7 „
„ „ „ the History of Italy	3 „
Catalogue of the History of Spain and Portugal	1 volume.
„ „ History of Great Britain.	1 „
„ of Medical Sciences, drawn up by M. Pauly, the Assistant Keeper	1 „
Systematic Catalogue of Asia	1 „
Catalogue of the History of Italy	5 volumes.



Cardinal Mazarin's Study.

Besides the catalogues the compilers may consult, without authorisation, nine thousand volumes in the reading-room, and the slips of all the works entered at the Bibliothèque Nationale since 1878, classified under authors' names and order of subject.

We must now speak of the reading-room (*salle de travail*) of the *Imprimés*. It is there, in fact, that all the workers, all the lovers of books and study assemble. No one is admitted except by a card granted by the Administration; but this is never refused to foreigners who are recommended by their ambassadors or consuls. This imposing room was constructed after the plans of M. Labrouste senior, and was inaugurated in 1868. It contains 344 numbered places; but notwithstanding its immense size, it is often too small to contain the crowd of *habitués*, which increases every year. In 1894 it was visited by 135,170 readers, to whom 444,435 books were issued.

Besides this reading-room, the *Département des Imprimés* possesses a public reading-room, open to every one. It contains 25,000 volumes, chosen from standard works of fiction and reference. In 1894, 61,316 readers came there and made use of 79,091 volumes.

The staff of the *Département des Imprimés* comprises about sixty functionaries—viz., one Keeper-in-Chief (*conservateur-en-chef*), three assistant keepers (*conservateurs adjoints*), and fifty-six librarians, sub-librarians, and probationers or *attachés*. Neither the attendants nor the boy attendants are included in the above figures.

Nearly all the functionaries of the *Département des Imprimés* are chosen, at the present day, from amongst the pupils of the *École de Chartes*. The Keeper-in-Chief of the *Département des Imprimés* is M. Marchal, who has succeeded the much-regretted M. Thierry-Poux. M. Marchal was unanimously elected to this responsible post, by



A Corner of the Reading Room.

reason of the immense services rendered by him in the great inventory work, which he directed with perfect competence and rare energy. The assistant keepers, MM. Pauly, Blanchet, and Marcel, are all three capable and hard-working men.

The *Département des Manuscrits* is not of such importance to the mass of the educated public as the *Imprimés*, but it attracts an *élite* of faithful workers, desirous of wresting from old parchments the secrets of the Past. It offers to their curiosity one hundred thousand "registers," containing an innumerable quantity of manuscripts.

It has been formed, little by little, by gift or purchase of special collections, which



The Manuscript Room.

still bear the names of their former owners—as, for example, the Clairambault, Dupuy, Colbert, Baluze collections, and others. But in order to facilitate research it has been divided into *fonds*, according to the country to which these refer.

The *fonds français*, in itself composed of 5 classes, contains 26,484 numbers; the *fonds latin* comprises 6 classes and 18,613 numbers; the *fonds grec* 3 classes and 4613 numbers; the *fonds orientaux* 21,252 numbers. Certain branches of these last *fonds* are particularly important: the *fonds chinois* comprises 4783 pieces; the *fonds arabe* consists of no less than 4332 pieces. Valuable manuscripts, of whatever kind, are only issued by special permission of the Keeper.

There are numerous special catalogues relating to certain collections or certain *fonds*, but no general inventory has been made. This work, indeed, would not prove so satisfactory as one might expect; for, side by side with manuscripts of real importance, one finds an immense quantity of letters and different papers, amassed by the collectors, but devoid of interest for us.

The reading-room of the *Département des Manuscrits*, to which there is no admission except by a card from the Administration, contains 84 places. It looks out on the grand courtyard, and has the advantage of being perfectly illuminated. In 1894 36,490 volumes or "registers" were issued to students.

Facing the entrance door of the reading-room is the *Galerie Mazarine*, constructed by Mansard by order of Cardinal Mazarin, and celebrated for the painting of the ceiling, executed in 1641 by Romanelli and Grimaldi. One is struck, on entering, by a superb monument in bronze, more than three metres in height, representing *Le Parnasse Français*. The celebrated Mæcenas of the eighteenth century, Titon



The Mazarin Gallery.

du Tillet, had it executed by the sculptor Louis Garnier, to honour the memory of Louis XIV. and the illustrious French poets and musicians of that era.

The most beautiful specimens of illuminated manuscripts of the Middle Ages, and of printed works, rendered most valuable by their age or binding, are displayed in the cases of this gallery.

Between the *Galerie Mazarine* and the reading-room is the *Galerie des Chartes*, in which are preserved with religious veneration some papyrus, old charters, and certain very ancient maps, notably the celebrated Pisan Chart of the fourteenth century.

M. Deprez is the Keeper-in-Chief of the *Département des Manuscrits*. The riches of his department are thoroughly appreciated by M. Deprez, whose modesty is only equalled by his merit. He is seconded by an assistant keeper in the person of M. Omont, whose works are held in great esteem in the literary world.

The *Département des Estampes* is for the moment not favoured in the premises



The "Luynes" Room.

which it occupies, but when the proposed buildings in the Rue Vivienne are erected, a worthier place will be allotted to the masterpieces of our own and foreign artists.

The foundation of the beautiful collection of prints and engravings, which the Bibliothèque Nationale now possesses, was the acquisition by Colbert of the collection of Michel de Marolles, Abbé de Villeloin. This amiable scholar managed to amass 143,000 pieces in a few years!

This collection increased rapidly through purchases and gifts. Gaston d'Orléans, brother of Louis XIII., was one of the first to bequeath sixty volumes of plates and engravings, which he had collected on Natural History. Then followed the Gaignières, Mariette, and Caylus collections, with many others besides; and at the present day the *Département des Estampes* possesses more than two millions and a half of pieces, to which are added every year the eight or ten thousand engravings received under the copyright law. It is evident that these treasures are not left unemployed, for in 1894 nearly five thousand workers consulted about twenty thousand pieces.

It would certainly be interesting to compile a catalogue of these immense riches. The keepers who have followed one another as head of the *Département des Estampes* during the last hundred years, MM. Duchesne senior, *Devéria* Henri Delaborde, and at the present day, M. Duplessis, have devoted themselves to this, but the work is so gigantic that more than half of it remains yet to be accomplished.

The classification adopted by Baron de Heineken in his "*Idée d'une Collection d'Estampes*" has been followed by M. Duchesne and his successors, with some modifications suggested by experience. All those engravings, which might without detriment be separated from the works of the masters, have been arranged by the side of the works of painters, sculptors, architects and engravers, and thus the foundations of historical, typographical, or iconographical collections of great interest have been laid.

A certain number of works of great masters and of primitive collections of high value have been set aside under the name of *réserve*.

The *Département des Monnaies et Médailles* does not fall short of the preceding ones in the richness and importance of its collections. The first idea of creating a museum of this kind originated with François I., but the collection, commenced by that sovereign and continued by his successors, was scattered during the religious wars. Henry IV. made some attempts, indeed, to re-establish it, but to Louis XIV. is due the honour of having gathered together, in the galleries of the Louvre, the coins and medals contained in the royal palaces.

At the present day this department contains more than three hundred thousand pieces of all ages and periods, including such specimens of matchless value as the magnificent cameo stolen from the Sainte Chapelle and representing the Apotheosis of Augustus.

How can one describe all these marvels—ancient coins, medals, intaglios, seals, cameos, religious emblems—unless one be possessed of immense and varied scientific knowledge? What man could be at the same time numismatologist, archæologist, Egyptologist, Assyriologist, and what not besides? Several generations will be needed to complete the catalogues of these varied riches.

The present Keeper, M. Babelon, who had the honour of completing *L'Histoire Ancienne des Peuples de l'Orient* of François Lenormant, is assuredly one of the men best fitted to achieve a portion of this difficult task. He has already published two volumes of the catalogue of Grecian coins and one on coins of the Roman Republic, and he has drawn up the catalogue of the coins of the Achæmenides. He is about to bring out, in collaboration with M. Blanchet, *Les Bronzes Antiques*. One could not expect him to proceed more speedily with his task! We can only hope to see him continue his able works as rapidly as heretofore.

Such is the Bibliothèque Nationale, of which France is justly proud. It would be idle to draw comparisons between it and the rich British Museum. Let us simply say, to the honour of France and England, that these two great institutes offer artistic and literary treasures of incomparable worth to the curious and to lovers of intellectual things, and are unrivalled throughout the world.

GEORGES DE DUBOR,
Of the Bibliothèque Nationale.

